

# The Evening Star

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Declassification Review by NGA/DoD

**Twenty gallons of harmless red dye mix in the Potomac River near Hains Point in a test by Interior Department scientists.**

—Photo by E. F. Patterson, U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey.

## RIVER FLOW SLOW, DYE TRACES SHOW

Scientists from the Department of Interior's Geological Survey are still tracing the red dye that was dumped into the Potomac a week ago to measure the flow and mixing characteristics of the river.

While the harmless dye no longer is visible to the naked eye, devices called fluorometers can detect the fluorescent substance.

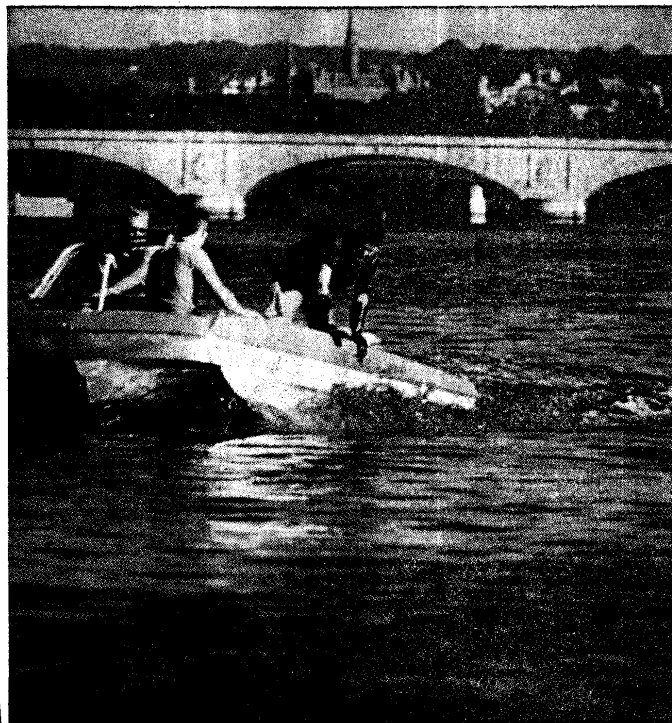
Scientists in the department said measurements thus far show that the flow of the river is much slower than had been anticipated. Due to the effects of tides, the dye had moved upstream from Memorial Bridge to Roosevelt Island last Friday.

The dye, Rhodamine B, was expected to reach Alexandria late yesterday or today. This indicates, a department spokesman said, that the flow of the river near Washington is quite slow and is at times nearly stagnant.

Last week, scientists photographed the dye from the air before it became invisible. The fluorometer testing is expected to end today.

The Geological Survey now is planning to increase its testing of river flows as pollution problems in tide water areas and estuaries become more critical.

Results of the latest study will supplement a similar study of the river made last year from Cumberland, Md., to Chain Bridge.



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—Photo by E. F. Patterson, U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey.

—Star Staff Photo by Byron Schumaker.